



# Mouth of the Platte Newsletter

## Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

Volume 2012, Issue 1

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March 2012

## Important MOP Notices:

### March is Membership Renewal Month

All memberships are renewable by the end of March each year. If you have not done so already, please renew promptly using the form in this issue of the newsletter. Member forms will also be available at the March dinner meeting from MOP Board members.

If you have questions, please contact Mary Langhorst at:

Mouth of the Platte 402-291-1585  
PO Box 3344 [mouthoftheplatte@cox.net](mailto:mouthoftheplatte@cox.net)  
Omaha, NE 68103

If your February issue of *We Proceeded On* had both duplicated and missing pages, let Dick Williams know so a replacement can be provided. Contact Dick at: 402-330-5119, or [RNWilliams2@gmail.com](mailto:RNWilliams2@gmail.com)

### Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

#### 44th Annual Meeting:

July 28 – August 1, 2012

Hosted by the Ohio River Chapter

#### Falls of the Ohio: Where They Met, Departed and Returned

Headquartered at the Holiday Inn Lakeview in Clarksville, Indiana, this year's event includes five days of outstanding events, seminars and road trips. Follow the "Old Buffalo Trace" to: Trough Spring (home of William's brother Jonathan), Grouseland (home of President Harrison) and the George Rogers Clark Memorial.

Speakers include: Carolyn Gilman, special projects historian of the Missouri History Museum and co-author of *Lewis and Clark: Across the Divide*, speaking on "George Rogers Clark, Jefferson's First Representative in the West." Bill Smith, the author of a book on Davis Floyd, will present "The Fabulous Floyds." Other topics include: "Mr. Jefferson and the Giant Moose" and "Venereal Disease and Mercury on the Expedition."

The meeting registration fee is only \$250 until June 15, when it rises to \$299. More information can be found in the February issue of *We Proceeded On*, on the LCTHF website, or at the host website at: [www.lewisandclar2012.com](http://www.lewisandclar2012.com)

## MOP Members Celebrate the MOP Study Group's Beginnings



submitted by Mary Langhorst

Twenty members of the Mouth of the Platte Tuesday Morning Study Group met as usual on Tuesday, January 6, 2012. Only it was a "more than usual" meeting. They gathered to celebrate 11 years of examining the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. According to a Non Pareil news article dated Thursday, January 4, 2001,

"The Western Historic Trails Center will start a free study group...to examine the story of the Lewis & Clark Expedition.... Local historians Kira Gale and Darrel Draper will lead the group. Studies begin with the 1803 Louisiana Purchase and end with the return of the voyagers to St. Louis in 1806.... The group will meet at the Trails Center on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon.... Members present at that first Study Group meeting included: Della Bauer, Esther Bender, Bob Berry, Florence Clouse, Fr. Tom Coenen, Holly Killebrew Dendee, Darrel Draper, R.H. Fanders, Kira Gale, Helen Garcelon, Bob Hasebroock, Bob Hastert, Tony Hunolt, Hiram Lilley, Maria McIntosh, Dick and Laurel Rapp, Jay Schneider, Bob Soloth, Frank Taylor, Chet Worm, and Neal Ratzlaff."

Eleven years later, some of those same members met as usual on a bright Tuesday morning to examine "the story of Lewis and Clark" focusing this year on the pre-expedition connections beginning as far back as 1578. Presentations this year have included: a look at the Columbia River, Early Explorations, Frontiers of Lewis and Clark, Lucy Lewis Marks, Plants of the Expedition, William Bratton, and Jefferson and Secrecy. We just don't run out of topics to discuss!

Every year, the Study Group takes a break and celebrates its "birthday" on the Tuesday closest to the original date of organization. This year, Kira Gale and Darrel Draper joined us for a morning of reminiscing, good conversation, delicious birthday cake, a yearly group photo, and of course a presentation... "Sergeant Gass Photos" by Ava Hastert. An invitation remains open to anyone who would like to join the Tuesday Study Group. Just phone the program planner, Ava Hastert, or contact us at [mouthoftheplatte@cox.net](mailto:mouthoftheplatte@cox.net) or [www.mouthoftheplatte.org](http://www.mouthoftheplatte.org)

## Mouth of the Platte Chapter

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage  
Foundation, Inc.



### Keepers of the Story.... ...Stewards of the Trail

Monthly meetings held third Tuesdays  
Social time, 5:30  
Dinner 6:00  
Program about 7:00

2011-2012 Meeting Schedule:  
20 December  
17 January  
21 February  
20 March  
17 April  
15 May

#### Annual events:

June: Lewis and Clark Festival  
Lewis and Clark State Park  
Onawa, IA

July: White Catfish Camp  
Western Historic Trails Center  
Council Bluffs, IA

#### Tuesday Morning Study Group:

9 a.m., most weeks  
Western Historic Trails Center  
3434 Richard Downing Ave.  
Council Bluffs, IA

#### MOP Board of Directors

President Shirley Enos  
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## President's Note:

Most of us don't think of ourselves as explorers or people who discover things or places. When I think of Lewis and Clark and their journey into unknown territory, I don't think I would have raised my hand when volunteers were asked for. Still, adventures come in a million sizes. The great adventure of the Corps of Discovery was the biggest brass ring ever grabbed. This does not mean there are not pint sized adventures out there for you and me.

The Tuesday Study Group traveled to Homestead National Monument last November and had an adventure. The Monument was a great place to visit and full of information on our pioneer forefathers. Getting stuck in the mud on a dirt road in the middle of nowhere was not part of our plan. We surely didn't want to get stuck, but in the end it was an adventure and invigorated each of us once it was over. Adventures will do that, invigorate us!

An adventure doesn't have to be a big package or faraway place but you have to get out there to have one: visit local churches to study their stained glass windows and learn their history; drive in the country to photograph barns; birdwatch from a new spot.

Traveling home yesterday from Minnesota, Tony and I witnessed the spring migration of Canada Geese. It was a wonder that stirred my heart. There was no possible way to count them. We pulled off at a rest area just to gaze in wonder. From horizon to horizon, traveling north, wave after wave of them, honking encouragement to each other. It was an adventure to be able to watch this magic of nature. And I wonder about the millions of people underneath them going about their daily business who never looked up to see them. I challenge each of you to LOOK UP.

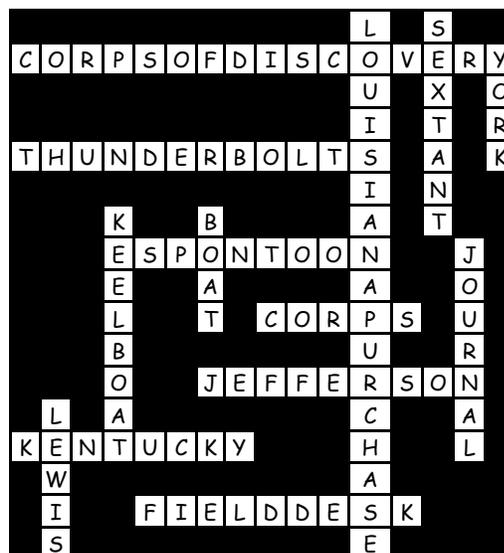
Have an adventure. Take a new route when traveling to a familiar place, take a different exit and discover something new. Adventures are everywhere. Go have one, and take a lunch, it might take all day.

Shirley Enos, President

## New Activity Page for Children and Grandchildren

A number of current and past educators are active members of the Mouth of the Platte Chapter. They developed a page intended to engage young people in the Lewis and Clark Story through a variety of activities. (See pages 5 and 6.) Please share this widely. It can serve as an introduction to the world of Lewis and Clark for people of any age.

The answers for this issue's activities appear below because they fit comfortably in this spot and to demonstrate the type of activities included in this new feature.



Fill in the Map: Answers

1. Thomas Jefferson.
- 2.-4. Check maps for correct placement.
5. Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon.
6. Hunter, cook, tracker, tailor, boatman, interpreter, woodsmen, carpenter, scientist, doctor, zoologist (study of animals), botanist (study of plants), musician.

## Meriwether Lewis' Plants

submitted by Neal Ratzlaff

Although Lewis is believed to have collected plants all along the route, the majority of those known today were collected in the Rocky Mountains or between the Rockies and the Pacific. Most were collected on the return journey in 1806 reflecting the fragility of dried plant specimens and their susceptibility to damage, particularly by moisture. Of all the plants collected on the outward journey between St. Louis and Lemhi Pass only about 30 remain, most from the shipment Lewis sent back on the keelboat from Ft. Mandan. Thirty of the approximately 60 plants sent from Ft. Mandan were lost after they reached Philadelphia. Almost all the specimens collected in the spring and summer of 1805 on the Great Plains fell victim to flooding or dampness when they were cached for pickup on the return journey.

Lewis had big plans for the scientific material he brought back. A prospectus circulated on his return indicated his intention to produce a volume which would include "every subject of natural history which is entirely new" and which "shall be accompanied by an appropriate engraving illustrative of it." During his visit to Philadelphia in early 1807, he arranged for the young botanist Frederick Pursh to prepare the plant illustrations.

By early 1809, Pursh had finished many of the drawings, but hearing nothing from Lewis, found a job in New York. He took his drawings, descriptions and a portion of Lewis's plant specimens with him. In 1811, Pursh (and the specimens he "borrowed" from the Lewis collection) sailed for London where he was employed by British collector Aylmer Burke Lambert. There he published a book on North American plants, *Flora Americae Septentrionalis*. The book included 130 plants which he stated were in the Lewis collection. Among the 27 colored illustrations of individual plants, 13 were attributed to Lewis.



Bitterroot  
*Lewisia rediviva* Pursh

Illustration from *Flora Americae septentrionalis*, Frederick Pursh, 1814

Lewis' specimen of bitterroot held by the Academy of Natural Sciences. The type specimen designation indicates the species description and name were based on this individual plant. In this case, Pursh named the plant for Lewis. (Notations enhanced for legibility.)



Pursh later returned to Canada where he died in 1820, but the "borrowed" Lewis plant specimens remained in Lambert's herbarium. When Lambert died in 1842, his plants were sold at auction. Lot number 256 which contained 47 of Lewis' plant specimens was purchased by an American, Edward Tuckerman. He brought them back to the United States and eventually donated them to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Lot number 262 which included 11 more Lewis plants was acquired by William Jackson Hooker, director of Kew Gardens. On his death, they were placed in the Kew herbarium where they remain.

William Clark was left with finding someone to prepare the natural history book after Lewis' death. Clark selected Benjamin Smith Barton and placed the plants in his care. In 1815, Barton died without having done any work on the book. Lewis' plant specimens were returned to the American Philosophical Society where they lay unnoticed until 1896 when they were "rediscovered" by Edward Meehan, a botanist from the Academy of Natural Sciences. He persuaded the Philosophical Society to place their 179 specimens on loan to the Academy of Natural Sciences where the 47 Tuckerman specimens were held. Later, an additional specimen was found at the Academy of Natural Sciences and another at the Charleston Museum in South Carolina. Both have a connection to Zacchaeus Collins, a friend of Barton's suggesting they were acquired from Barton.

In summary, there are 227 of Lewis' plant specimens at the Academy of Natural Sciences, 1 at the Charleston Museum, and 11 in the Kew Herbarium; a total of 239 specimens. Since a number of plants are duplicates, there are only 177 different kinds or species. Eight are found only in the specimens Pursh took to England; 7 are in the Tuckerman purchase and 1 unique specimen remains at the Kew. The Charleston Museum specimen is also unique. Of the 130 plants Pursh attributed to Lewis, no specimens of 23 species are known. One of the missing plants, Lewis' Monkeyflower (*Mimulus lewisii*) is actually illustrated in a colored engraving. This suggests that some, if not all of the missing plants, were lost later. Where, when and how? We don't know.

Reference: *The Definitive Journals of Lewis and Clark: Vol. 12, Herbarium*. Moulton, G.E. ed. 2004. University of Nebraska Press.

## Lewis and Clark Country Family Days Need MOP Support

Lewis and Clark focused family activities will be available free to the public from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of the month from April through August at the Western Historic Trails Center, 3434 Richard Downing Avenue, Council Bluffs, Iowa. Different subjects will be featured each month, with indoor, outdoor and take-away projects to work on.

These programs are co-sponsored by the Trails Center and MOP, and we need members to lend a hand to assure their success. Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of hands-on, one-on-one and group activities.

For more information and a schedule of planned subject areas, contact members of the organizing group: Shirley Enos, KC Hummel, or Mary Langhorst through the phone numbers listed on page 2. Other organizers include Betty Smallen and Evelyn Orr. Contact any of them at the MOP email: [mouthoftheplatte@cox.net](mailto:mouthoftheplatte@cox.net)

## IT'S A MYSTEREEEEEE.....



Submitted by Darlene Backhaus

The Lewis and Clark Study Group investigated the influx of Snowy Owls into the Midwest during the fall and early winter. Are there too many owls in the Arctic with a shortage of their lemming food supply? Will the Snowy Owls migrate North when the Midwest warms in Spring? Will we ever have the answer? It is anyone's guess and a mystery.

In his book *Raptors*, John Hendrickson states:

“The coniferous trees of the northern boreal forest have a cyclic rhythm of cone production. About every third or fourth year production is high and, as a result, rodents feed and reproduce well. Not surprisingly, raptor populations that feed on these mice, voles, and squirrels also increase. During the year after high cone production, however, trees often enter a resting period and produce very few cones. Rodents starve, forcing raptor populations either to move or to starve as well. The northern species that are most affected by this cycle are the snowy owl, short eared owl and the rough legged hawk.”

Raptors are necessary in our ecosystem to keep rodent populations in check. Barn owls can consume 1,500 mice in one year. So it is an asset to have a pair of barn owls nesting in farm buildings for rodent control.

Owls are silent hunters due to the structure of their flight feathers. Snowy Owls have the thickest feathering of all birds on their legs with feathers down to their talons. Another feature of owl feet is a reversible outer toe, so two toes can face forward and two back, providing more stability while perched. This configuration also allows them to have a better hold on their prey and to puncture the skull of their prey with their sharp (thumb) talons.

Owls have remarkable vision and can penetrate the darkest night, successfully weaving between trees and branches, but when it comes to finding prey, most owls depend on sound. Owls can hear sounds ten times fainter

than the human ear can detect. The feathers that cover the asymmetrical placed ear openings are very soft and do not contain barbules allowing sounds to pass freely through. An owl can precisely locate the origin of sounds on both a vertical and horizontal plane.

Owls have the most frontally situated eyes of any birds with the eyeball filling the socket making the eye stationary. Therefore, an owl must turn its head 270 degrees for a full field of vision. All raptors have a third eyelid called the nictitating membrane. In addition to protecting the eye from dirt and dust, this specialized structure protects the eye from injury when the raptor grabs its prey.

Owls swallow their prey whole. The nondigestible bones, fur or feathers form a pellet which is regurgitated. Looking for pellets beneath roosts is a good way to locate owls. Often owls rely on camouflage to go undetected, and will sit silently next to a tree trunk rather than flying off when approached.

Snowy Owls nest on the ground in a site with good visibility and ready access to hunting areas. Breeding occurs in May and clutch sizes range from 5 to 14 eggs. Eggs hatch approximately five weeks after laying and the pure white young are cared for by both parents. Since Snowy Owls nest in the Arctic Tundra perhaps they are looking at our prairie lands and plentiful supply of food for a home. We Midwesterners will enjoy their company while it lasts even though it remains a mystereeeee.

[N.B.: The Nebraska Raptor Recovery Program reports the irruption of owls was due to a food surplus in the high Arctic breeding area last season. With excess rodents to feast on, there was unprecedented nesting success among the owls. When food supplies dwindled late in the season, competition for food forced many young, inexperienced (at securing food) birds to disperse. Many of these birds were so underweight it is not likely they made it through the winter. The food surplus was the proximate cause of the influx of Snowy Owls. The larger question may be whether this is an expected effect of the changing climate.]

## In Memoriam

Dean Alan Shippy, age 52, son of Don Shippy of Honey Creek, Iowa, passed away January 10, 2012 at Hospice with a Heart Hospice House in Glenwood, Iowa.

He was born at the Red Lake Reservation in Baltrami County, Minnesota. At age 5 he was adopted by Don and Terri Shippy. After graduation from West High School in Waterloo, Iowa, Dean served for three years in the Marine Corps. He then worked for 30 years as a professional assistant trainer and groomer at thoroughbred race tracks in Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Oklahoma.

Dean's body was donated to education and research at the University of Iowa. A memorial service was held on January 14, 2012.

**In The Beginning:**

**Thomas Jefferson's Dream**

The idea for an expedition began long before many people realize. On January 25, 1786, Thomas Jefferson wrote to his friend Archibald Stuart. In the letter Jefferson said he feared the Spanish, who owned the lands we call the Louisiana Purchase, were too weak to hold on to it until the population of our United States would be large enough to gain it from them piece by piece. This was 21 years before Jefferson became our third president.

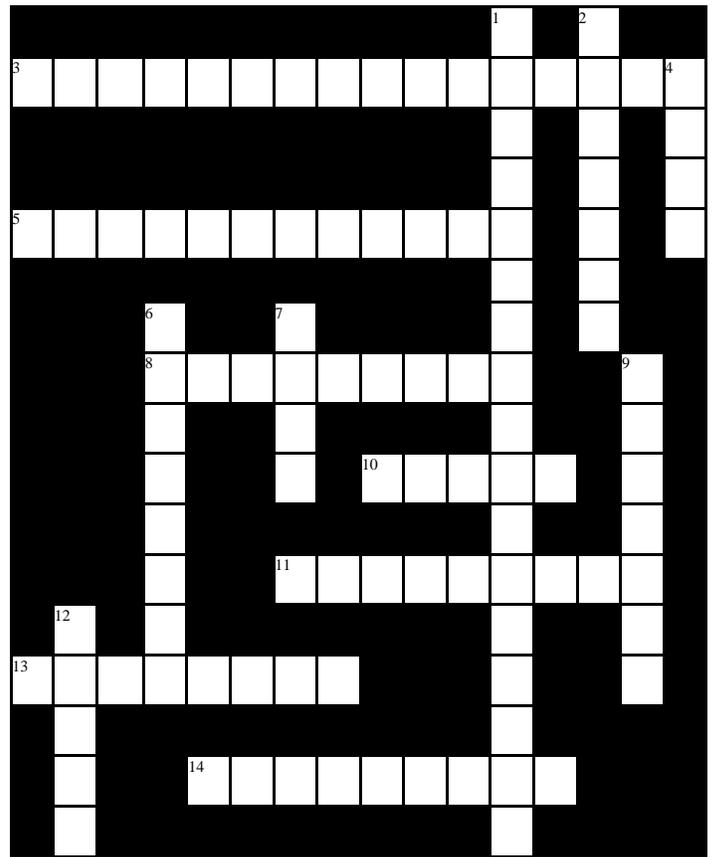
When Jefferson became president in 1801 he asked a family friend, Meriwether Lewis, to be his personal secretary in the White House. Jefferson and Lewis begin planning a secret expedition into the lands west of the Missouri River. Perhaps Jefferson knew when he hired Lewis he would have him lead an expedition to the Pacific Coast.

On January 18, 1803, President Jefferson disguised the full plan for the expedition so he could receive money from Congress. He asked Congress for \$2,500 for a small party of men to promote U.S. trade with the Native Peoples of the Missouri River Valley.

In 1803 France, now the owner of the lands of Louisiana, sold them to the United States for three cents an acre. The largest land deal ever. The Louisiana Purchase more than doubled the size of our country.

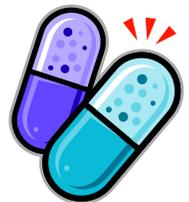
**Getting Ready**

KC Collins Hummel



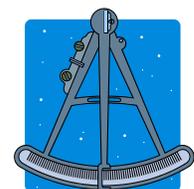
**ACROSS**

- 3. Name of the Expeditions (3 words)
- 5. Dr. Rush's pills
- 8. Spear
- 10. U.S. Marine \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Third U.S. president
- 13. Nine young men from \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. Portable writing surface (2 words)



**DOWN**

- 1. Bought from France (2 words)
- 2. Directional device
- 4. Clark's servant
- 6. Boat that carried supplies
- 7. Water transportation
- 9. Record of events
- 12. Jefferson's secretary





## The 48 contiguous U.S. States

### Filling the Map:

You will need an atlas of the United States and a map of the Louisiana Purchase to help you with the following.

1. Who was the U.S. President at the time of the Louisiana Purchase? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In 1803 all of the United States of America and her territories were east of the Mississippi River.

Locate the Mississippi River on your map and draw a line along its course.

3. Several cities east of St. Louis were visited while preparing and planning the expedition.

On your map, mark with a dot and label each of the locations listed below:

Washington, D.C.	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Harpers Ferry, Virginia	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
St. Louis, Missouri	

4. Outline and color in the area of our map that was the Louisiana Purchase.

5. The exploration began at the mouth of the Mississippi River and proceeded to the Pacific Ocean on the path shown on our map.

Label the states of today that the Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled past or through.

6. Imagine yourself as a young explorer hired to go with Captains Lewis and Clark on the expedition to the Westward Ocean and back.

What skills do you think are important to have?

List as many as you can think of.

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## The Frontier of Lewis and Clark

submitted by Betty Smallen

The frontier: Where was it? Over the Appalachians? Across the Ohio or Mississippi Rivers? West of the Missouri? On the West Coast? One definition states "it lies on the hither edge of free land." In the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the eastern frontier was a wilderness of forest and grassy prairies in Indiana and Illinois.

The Old Northwest Territory was organized in 1787, comprising the current states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, and part of Minnesota. Among the earliest explorers were Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, and George Rogers Clark, the older brother of William Clark. Game was plentiful. Game and Indian trails served as paths for the first white men to penetrate the wilderness.

Three main divisions of the Native Americans occupied the Eastern States, divided by their language: Algonquian (Shawnee, Miami, Potawatomi, Chippewa, and Delaware); Iroquoian (Cherokee, Huron, and Iroquois League); Siouan (Omaha, Iowa, Missouri, Otoe, Mandan and Dakota Sioux). The Iroquois League were the People of the Longhouse, and were hunters, farmers, fishers, and gatherers.

The lifestyle of the pioneers was simple and hard. Log cabins were erected, land cleared and crops planted as soon as

possible after they arrived. Transportation was usually a horse or a pair of oxen, and maybe a Conestoga wagon. Hunters usually wore tanned deerskin trousers and cloth shirts. The women and children wore cloth, normally linsey-woolsey, a combination of linen and wool. Most household articles were made of wood by hand. Iron utensils were purchased from itinerant peddlers. Any task that took more than the family became an occasion for a social gathering, as did funerals and weddings. Home remedies were used for most ailments, including sassafras tea, sulphur and molasses, onion syrup, and poultices.

A recent theory suggests part of the social problems of early frontier life were caused by PTSD, post traumatic stress disorder. This modern condition has been described since the Civil War, but is likely to have occurred long before. The majority of pioneers lived under the constant threat of Indian raids, and many had witnessed or survived attacks. The frontiersmen are often characterized as hard-drinking, violent and antisocial; restless men, always ready to move on to the next frontier. Could PTSD have played a part?

Lewis and Clark lived on the frontier and experienced Indian wars as military men. Did that play a part in the Expedition? Did that help them become the ideal men to lead such a journey into unknown territory?

## LCTHF and the American Heritage Girls

submitted by Mary Langhorst

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and the American Heritage Girls signed a Memorandum of Understanding on August 1, 2011, at the LCTHF Annual Meeting in Omaha. Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs, LCTHF President, and Patricia A. Garibay, AHG National Executive Director, signed the memorandum that "established a general framework for cooperation between the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and the American Heritage Girls." According to the memorandum, [they] "will collaborate on projects and programs that interpret the stories of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and provide stewardship of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail."

A similar Memorandum of Understanding had been signed between the LCTHF and the Boy Scouts of America at a previous annual meeting.

One outcome of the recent MOU was the sending of letters to 14 regional and national offices of the American Heritage Girls, 4-H, and Girl Scouts of American which included the requirements and application forms for earning the Scout Patch offered by the MOP Chapter. Rachael Culpepper, National Program Director of AHG, responded and is grateful for opening this opportunity to the American Heritage Girls.

More information regarding the Mouth of the Platte Scout Patch is available on the Chapter website. [www.mouthoftheplatte.org](http://www.mouthoftheplatte.org) or you may contact us at [mouthoftheplatte@cox.net](mailto:mouthoftheplatte@cox.net).

**Memberships**  
All memberships are renewable annually by March 31.

Individual membership.....\$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family membership.....\$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student membership.....\$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business/Organization.....\$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Charitable contributions to support:**

Mouth of the Platte Chapter programs \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Newspapers in Education..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boy Scouts of America activities ... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gifford Farm Lewis and Clark programs \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Western Historic Trails Center ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make Check Payable to:

Mouth of the Platte, Inc.  
 PO Box 3344  
 Omaha, NE 68103

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lewis and Clark interests \_\_\_\_\_

Current member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation ?  yes  no  send info

## MOP Meeting Roster:

Dinner meetings remain at Anthony's through June. Please forward your reservation and meal preference by mid-day on Sunday prior to the meeting to Mary at 402-291-1585 or email to: [mouthoftheplatte@cox.net](mailto:mouthoftheplatte@cox.net).

Baked lasagna	\$21
Rosemary chicken	\$21
8 oz. sirloin steak	\$22

(above entrees include green beans almondine)

California Cobb salad with Italian dressing  
(choice of muffin or garlic bread) \$16

## March 20

Mouth of the Platte member Evelyn Orr will present a vexillological analysis of the Corps of Discovery Expedition. While it is not known exactly how many flags were carried or their style, it is known that flags were very important in diplomatic encounters with the many American Indian groups along the route. Perhaps Evelyn's discussion of the Corps' flags will make vexillophiles of us all.

## April 17

Program is to be determined. Watch for details by email.

## May 15

All dinner meeting attendees will contribute to the May program with the return of the Lewis and Clark Trivia Contest. Start combing the journals now to brush up on the facts. Look for the small, obscure or esoteric details.

## 20th Anniversary of National Trails Day Saturday, June 2, 2012

What a great time of year to get out and enjoy the outdoors along one the hundreds of historic, hiking, biking, riding, canoeing, and nature trails throughout the country. Find activities near you at: <http://www.americanhiking.org/NTD.aspx>.

Or better yet, organize a way to share your enjoyment of the Lewis and Clark Trail with others.

Mouth of the Platte, Inc.  
PO Box 3344  
Omaha, NE 68103

## National Homestead Act Commemoration

### April 25 to May 28, 2012

Homestead Act of 1862 on display at Homestead National Monument, Beatrice, NE. First public display of entire document outside of Washington.

### May 20-25

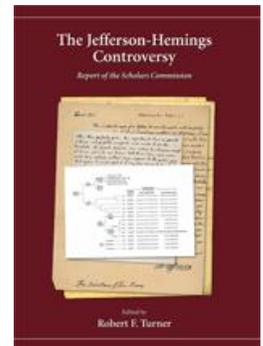
National Signature Event and Chautauqua:  
"Free Land? 1862 and the Shaping of Modern America"

For more information, visit: [www.nps.gov/home](http://www.nps.gov/home)

## Book to Tempt History Buffs

*The Jefferson-Hemings Controversy: Report of the Scholars Commission*, edited by Robert F. Turner. Commissioned in 2000 by the newly formed Thomas Jefferson Heritage Society to uncover the truth, more than a dozen scholars examined the evidence. Their conclusions ranged from "serious skepticism" to "almost certainly false."

Available from Carolina Academic Press, as jacketed hardbound (432 pp., \$45) or in Kindle version.



What was KC doing with that pie? Was someone about to be "faced" with a problem? This year instead of cake at the February meeting for Pomp's Birthday, lemon meringue pie was the



treat. The MOP Board seized an opportunity when an entire pie was left over by holding an impromptu auction. The proceeds help support the MOP activities and programs through the year. No report on the effects of a whole pie on the successful bidder.